

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00108 221315Z  
ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5064  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0108

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OREP, US, LY, SA  
SUBJECT: VISIT OF U.S. SENATOR JAMES MCCLURE

SUMMARY: SENATOR JAMES MCCLURE ENDED A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO LIBYA JANUARY 19. THE SENATOR MET WITH COLONEL QADHAFI, OFFICIALS OF THE FOREIGN LIAISON BUREAU OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS AND SECRETARIES OF SEVERAL MINISTRIES. DURING THE SENATOR'S MEETING WITH COLONEL QADHAFI, THE LIBYAN LEADER RAISED ISSUES OF C-130S, EXCHANGE OF AM-BASSADORS AND STRESSED DESIRE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE SENATOR'S MEETINGS WITH VARIOUS LIBYAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN GIVEN EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATOR JAMES MCCLURE DEPARTED TRIPOLI EVENING OF JANUARY 19, AFTER A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO LIBYA. THE HIGH-LIGHT OF THE VISIT WAS INTERVIEW WITH QADHAFI AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 16. AFTER QADHAFI MEETING, SENATOR MCCLURE AND STAFF AIDE HATHAWAY MET WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AT CHANCERY AND DESCRIBED CONVERSATION WITH QADHAFI. SENATOR OBSERVED THAT QADHAFI APPEARED SOMEWHAT TENSE, NOT PARTICULARLY CORDIAL, BUT COURTEOUS. DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF A TRANSLATOR, QADHAFI SPOKE ENGLISH  
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FOR A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE HOUR AND A HALF MEETING. QADHAFI RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE C-130S. QADHAFI ARGUED THAT THE UNITED STATES REFUSAL TO ALLOW THE EXPORT OF THE C-130S PURCHASED BY LIBYA WAS NOT REASONABLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE LIGHT OF THE U.S. DECISION TO SELL THESE AIRCRAFT TO EGYPT AND THE SUDAN. QADHAFI TOLD THE SENATOR THAT EGYPT AND THE SUDAN

WERE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO USE THESE AIRCRAFT IN ANOTHER WAR AGAINST ISRAEL THAN WAS LIBYA. QADHAFI ALSO RAISED THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGING AMBASSADORS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LIBYA. THE SENATOR INDICATED THAT QADHAFI APPEARED VERY KEEN TO ESTABLISH NORMAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS, AND PROMOTE U.S. TRADE WITH LIBYA. QADHAFI TOLD SENATOR MCCLURE THAT HE WOULD BUY ARMS FROM THE UNITED STATES "THIS AFTERNOON" IF THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO SELL ARMS TO LIBYA. THE COLONEL SAID THAT LIBYA SHOULD NOT HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE IT WAS "THE ONLY MAJOR POWER WITH WHICH LIBYA HAD NOT HAD PAST COLONIAL PROBLEMS." SENATOR MCCLURE RESPONDED THAT IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD SELL ARMS TO LIBYA BECAUSE OF LIBYA'S OPPOSITION TO U.S. AND EGYPTIAN MIDDLE EAST PEACE INITIATIVES AND LIBYA'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE SENATOR TOLD COLONEL QADHAFI THAT THE UNITED STATES OPPOSED TERRORISM PARTICULARLY WHEN THE LIVES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PROBLEM, WERE JEOPARDIZED.

2. LIBYA'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES WAS A PREDOMINATE THEME EXPRESSED TO SENATOR MCCLURE BY LIBYAN MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE  
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AND AGRARIAN REFORM, PLANNING, TRADE AND MARITIME TRANSPORT AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS MOHAMMED ELHADI ABUSETTA DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH THESE OFFICIALS.

3. LOCAL MEDIA GAVE CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO SENATOR MCCLURE'S VISIT. THE SENATOR'S MEETING WITH COLONEL QADHAFI RECEIVED FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN LIBYA'S ONLY DAILY AL-FAJR AL-JIDIID. LIBYAN NEWS SERVICE JANA JANUARY 17 GIVES STRAIGHT COVERAGE OF SENATOR MCCLURE'S MEETING WITH COLONEL QADHAFI AND LIBYAN MINISTER OF PLANNING MUSA ABU FRAIWA. JANA DESCRIBED SENATOR'S DISCUSSION WITH THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AS DEALING WITH "COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS FIELD, ESPECIALLY PLANNING AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH." SIMILAR COVERAGE IS GIVEN SENATOR'S MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS OF LAND RECLAMATION AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT AND SECRETARY OF TRADE ABU BAKR SHARIF.

4. SENATOR MCCLURE CONCURRED WITH THIS MESSAGE IN DRAFT PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE.

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## Message Attributes

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